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# NEWSLETTER

PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEE

JOHN CERVASE, PUBLISHER

## IT TAKES GUTS

I am going to do a little bragging, not to indulge in self-praise, but to prove a point...that it is not hopeless to fight against the things you believe are wrong, but feel you are helpless to change.

Discouraged and dejected readers of PIC NEWSLETTER have repeatedly told me: "We admire your courage, but you are fighting a losing battle".

This upsets me deeply, but gives me the determination to keep on fighting, not only to win the battle, but to demonstrate that we should never give up, even if it means we must go down fighting for the values we believe in and cherish.

I was told to quit before I was killed by one of the Leroi Jones mob. I was threatened, too; even physically assaulted. But I was not discouraged or deterred in my will to fight and block all that Leroi Jones stands for.

I, alone, fought Leroi Jones for 7 years against the opposition of my fellow-board of education members. But I finally succeeded in putting his subversive African Free School out of business.

I again fought Leroi Jones and my black board members, who had the support of two white quislings on the board. He wanted the Black Liberation Flag to fly in the schools of Newark. I was successful although the odds were against me. Fellow-lawyers told me I did not stand a chance in court. But I did get a court order permanently blocking the Black Flag.

We also fought Leroi Jones to block Kawaida Towers. It took 4 years. We finally succeeded in defeating an all black high-rise, low rent housing project which would have served as a power-base for Leroi Jones in Forest Hill and the North Ward sections of Newark. Jones had the support of the blacks of Newark and of public officials from the Governor down to the Mayor and City Council. But we won the battle. The white councilman from the North Ward who acted as the Mayor's stooge in proposing the resolution to build Kawaida Towers was defeated for re-election.

Finally, I forced the Federal Communications Commission to yield to my demands to compel WNET-TV to give more TV coverage to the people of New Jersey. It was a two-year fight, with suits in the federal courts in Newark and Washington which I started. The victory was widely published in the metropolitan and New Jersey press. The proof is on page two.

Leroi Jones, today, stands completely exposed and discredited by me. I could not have done it without the courage, perseverance and determination to fight this radical black man who wants to destroy and rebuild America in his image. The importance of this latest victory is the fact that a LITTLE PERSON can fight BIG GOVERNMENT and force it to yield to his demands, without riots and violent demonstrations that blacks are engaging in to force America to her knees.

John Cervase

**FCC PUSHES NEWARK STUDIO PLANS****WNET asked to boost state service**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has asked WNET-TV, the non-commercial educational station, to consider an expansion of its "service obligation to New Jersey" beyond a "mere continuation" of its programming.

In a letter to John J. Iselin, president of the Educational Broadcasting Corp., the FCC noted that WNET's application for license renewal also "fails to discuss plans for studio facilities" in the station's "principal community, Newark."

The FCC letter, dated Nov. 4, was a request for additional information and not a final decision on the merits of the station's past service. The letter was in response to WNET's application for license renewal, which was filed on Jan. 30, 1975.

The station is allocated to Newark, but has been granted an FCC exemption to maintain studios only in New York City.

John Cervase, an attorney and former member of the Newark Board of Education, has been in the forefront of a fight to have WNET establish studio operations in Newark.

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Cervase and the New Jersey Coalition for Fair Broadcasting, among others, have filed petitions asking the FCC to either deny WNET's application for license renewal or compel the station to move studio operations to Newark.

The FCC letter, which made note of these petitions, requested WNET to respond

within 30 days with additional information regarding expanded programming for New Jersey.

"It appears that WNET proposes basically the same kinds and amounts of programming for New Jersey as was broadcast during the 1972-75 license term," the FCC said.

"This leads us to question whether New Jersey's current needs and interests would be met by a mere continuation" of past programming.

"Therefore, we believe it appropriate to permit (WNET) to reappraise programming policies and to submit additional programming to the commission.

"Particular attention should be given to programming of specific interest to New Jersey residents," the FCC directed.

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SAN ANTONIO NEWS — Thursday, December 2, 1971

# Newark mayor backs school board on black lib flag

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Newark's black mayor says he supports the school board's right to put the black liberation flag in most of the city's public school classrooms, but that there are more important problems in education facing the city.

The board's decision was sought by 17-year-old Lawrence

Hammi, a black who was appointed to the board earlier this year.

Three other black members of the board and a Puerto Rican voted with Hammi Tuesday night. ~~Commissioner~~

On Wednesday, attorney John Cervase, one of four board

members not present when the resolution passed, announced he was preparing a suit against the rule.

Later in the day, Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson issued a statement saying he respected the board's decision and would do nothing to interfere with it.

Gibson called the measure "an attempt to project a positive identity for black children."

He said the liberation flag could be important as a symbol to black students, but, "a flag remains only a symbol which cannot teach children to read or bring about the unity between peoples which we need in

order to progress."

The rule provides that the red, black and green flags be the same size as the American flags now in the classrooms. It will be put in all classrooms of schools with predominantly black enrollments.

A school board official, noting

Newark's school population is about 80 per cent black, said the flags will be up in all but one or two schools.

Gibson said, "Whites must realize that the projection of black identity is not meant as derogatory to whites."

Gibson also cautioned white

critics who vowed the flag would not fly in their neighborhood schools.

"Newark now has a legally designed symbol of identity for its black students," he said. "Anyone who would violate this symbol is acting outside the law."

The Superior Court of New Jersey and the State Commissioner of Education disagreed with the mayor and his friend, Leroi Jones. They blocked the black flag at my request not only in Newark schools, but state wide.

Discredited, Leroi Jones changed the name of his Congress of African People to THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE.

J.C.

# Cervase files complaint

NEWARK — Attorney John Cervase has filed a civil rights complaint in the U.S. Department of Justice against Mayor Kenneth Gibson and black revolutionary Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) for their acts in the Kawaida Towers case.

In a letter to Asst. Atty. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger, Cervase said, "Please direct the Civil Rights Division and the FBI to investigate the following complaints against Mayor Kenneth Gibson of Newark and Imamu Amiri Baraka:

From January, 1971, to November, 1972, in the District of New Jersey, Gibson, under color of law, willfully subjected me and the other residents of the North Ward of Newark to deprivation

of our rights to due process law protected by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by depriving us of notice and opportunity to be heard before the Newark City Council approved a tax abatement to Kawaida Towers, Inc., in violation of 18 U.S. Code 242; and

From January, 1971, to November, 1972, in the District of New Jersey, Gibson and Baraka conspired to violate 18 U.S. Code 242, in violation of 18 U.S. Code 371."

Cervase added, "Gibson and Baraka knew the identity of the sponsors and the nature of the project as the headquarters for Baraka's revolutionary organizations, but they willfully concealed it from the public.

As a result, the residents of the North Ward were denied their right to argue against the project and the City Council erroneously approved it. After learning the true facts, the council rescinded the tax abatement. But the Superior Court ruled that the rescission was unlawful and restored the tax abatement."

In a related development, Cervase hailed President

message to Congress on housing projects. He said, "Kawaida Towers is dramatic evidence of the evils of giant projects. The old housing program was designed to provide shelter for the bona-fide poor. But the program was exploited by people such as Baraka to build luxurious headquarters for revolutionary organizations.

## Cervase gets support

Former Newark Councilman Anthony Imperiale yesterday "challenged the right" of the Newark Black Leadership Congress to demand public censure of Board of Education member John Cervase.

Imperiale, in defense of the outspoken board member, said, "Since when has Mr. Cervase lost the right allowed him under the Constitution — freedom of speech — the same right that all the members of the so-called Newark Black Leadership Congress have taken full advantage of and abused."

"To charge Cervase with 'character assassination' of the African Free School is an outward lie and a prefabrication of rhetoric," Imperiale said.

The congress, composed of black and Puerto Rican community organizations, last week asked the board to publicly censure Cervase for his "repeated verbal attacks" on the African Free School, which is headed by black activist Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones).

Cervase has charged the school "is segregated for blacks only" and violates federal requirements for Title 1 education funds.

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THESE STORIES  
APPEARED IN THE  
STAR LEDGER AND  
THE NJ-NY  
METROPOLITAN PRESS

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## Kawaida Towers probe demanded by Cervase

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John Cervase, Newark mayoral candidate, has demanded that the state Housing Finance Agency hold a public hearing to investigate possible fraud on the part of Kawaida Towers, Inc., promoters of a controversial high-rise apartment in North Newark.

Cervase, a plaintiff and the attorney in a suit seeking to block the project, insisted in a letter to the FHA that the agency apply a law amendment allowing public hearings on its actions.

The issue is Cervase's belief that Imamu Amiri Baraka, whom he says admits to being "spiritual leader" of the Temple of Kawaida, committed fraud in getting a \$6.4 million mortgage because residency, he said, will be limited to Baraka's followers. This, he said is improper.

Cervase said he is concerned over reports that Kawaida Towers will be applying for additional funds to cover rises in materials and construction costs while the project has been delayed.

Cervase contended residents are concerned over existing plans by Baraka to build the high-rise in the overcrowded area while in the South and Central wards low-rise buildings are contemplated.

Cervase demanded that subpoenas be sent to Kawaida Towers, Inc. and the Newark City Council calling for records and books to support the idea that the project will be public and revealing discussions of conferences at which a tax abatement was granted to the project.

## Cervase replies on censure plea

Newark Board of Education member John Cervase said yesterday the Newark Black Leadership Congress which has demanded he be censured by the school board "is a non-existent entity with a phony name."

The group has urged the board to "publicly censure" Cervase because of his "repeated verbal attacks" on the African Free School.

Cervase said the African Free School, "the brain-child of LeRoi Jones," is "a place where innocent children are taught to stand at attention and pay homage to Jones, a foreign flag and continent while their own country, America is ignored."

Cervase continued: "The Black Leadership Congress is a phony name chosen by Jones and his stooges to lend dignity and importance to a non-existent entity. This is a typical mode of operation for

Jones — he forms coalitions, ad hoc committees, concerned citizens groups and other organizations with high-sounding names to cloak his activities with an aura of public support when, in fact, he represents no one but himself and an outlaw band of misguided activists."

KAWAIDA TOWERS  
IS NOW A DEAD  
ISSUE AFTER A  
FOUR YEAR PATTLE

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